

**For Immediate Release**

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(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove was briefed this morning on the latest assessments of the Mississippi Homeland Security Council. Robert Latham, executive director of the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency and head of homeland security for Mississippi, conducted the briefing.

Musgrove released this statement following the briefing:

“Every state agency is involved in the efforts to ensure the safety and security of our people and our property. We are communicating with Secretary Tom Ridge and the Department of Homeland Security on a daily basis. According to Secretary Ridge, there is no plan at this time to move to the next threat level of RED, or severe.

“With the first strikes having been made against Iraq, our prayers continue to be with our president, our soldiers, and with the innocent civilians caught in this conflict.”

The Mississippi Homeland Security Council met twice yesterday, assessing threat levels and needs around the state. The Emergency Operations Center located at the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency is currently being staffed on a 24-hour basis.

Approximately 44 soldiers of the Mississippi National Guard were deployed yesterday to augment security measures in place at ports along the Mississippi Gulf Coast and the Mississippi River, as well as at Grand Gulf Nuclear Facility.

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